

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/530,521

Examiner

Marc A. Scharich

Applicant(s)

SANDERS, MARK ANDREW

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-15, 18, and 20-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/7/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in the REMARKS filed on 12/21/2006, in which Mr. Mark A. Sanders requested and authorized the examiner to amend any errors in the claims of the present invention in order to place the application in condition for allowance. *The application has been amended as follows:*

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 4 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 4. A frame assembly for a foldable cycle comprising a rear frame portion including a mounting for a rear wheel; a forward frame portion, hingedly connecting to said rear frame portion such that the two frame portions are foldable towards each other; and hingedly connecting to said forward frame portion, a pivot assembly for a mounting arm, said mounting arm including a mounting for a forward wheel, wherein the rear frame portion and pivot assembly are coupled such that ~~on~~ when folding ~~of~~ the frame portions towards each other, hinged movement of said pivot assembly relative to the forward frame portion moves said mounting arm to increase the spacing between the forward frame portion and the forward wheel mounting; and wherein the rear frame portion and

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pivot assembly are coupled by a coupling comprising one or more rigid coupling elements; ~~and,~~ wherein the coupling is of adjustable length. --

Claim 5 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 5. A The frame assembly according to claim 4, wherein the coupling is provided with one or more threaded screw adjusters to enable fine adjustment of the length thereof. --

Claim 6 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 6. A The frame assembly according to claim 4, wherein the coupling is provided with a tensioner for providing tension to said hinged connection between the forward and rear frame portions. --

Claim 7 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 7. A The frame assembly according to claim 6, wherein said tensioner comprises a resilient element. --

Claim 8 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 8. A The frame assembly according to claim 7, wherein said resilient element comprises a spring. --

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Claim 9 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 9. A The frame assembly according to claim 7, wherein said resilient element acts to provide an over centre action. --

Claim 10 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 10. A The frame assembly according to claim 7, wherein said resilient element locates within a cavity defined by the coupling. --

Claim 11 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 11. A The frame assembly according to claim 10, wherein the coupling is provided with a hard sprung piston mechanism comprising an outer sleeve shaped respectively to receive an inner bayonet sleeve and a central piston together with an internal spring, wherein the sprung piston mechanism enables travel of the inner bayonet sleeve relative to the outer sleeve which travel is constrained by the an action of the spring. --

Claim 12 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 12. A The frame assembly according to claim 4, additionally comprising a lock for reversibly locking the rear and forward frame portions together in a hinge closed position. --

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Claim 13 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 13. A The frame assembly according to claim 12, wherein said lock additionally includes a variable length coupling between the rear and forward frame portions. --

Claim 14 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 14. A The frame assembly according to claim 13, wherein said variable length coupling co-operates with the coupling ~~on~~ when folding ~~of~~ the rear and forward frame portions towards each other. --

Claim 15 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 15. A The frame assembly according to claim 12, wherein said lock is arranged to provide an over centre locking action. --

Claim 18 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 18. A The frame assembly according to claim 4, wherein ~~on~~ when folding ~~of~~ the frame portions towards each other, the coupling acts to push the forward wheel mounting out and around the forward and rear frame portions. --

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Claim 20 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 20. A The frame assembly according to claim 4, wherein the rear wheel frame portion is provided with an adjustable mounting for a seat stem. --

Claim 21 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 21. A frame and forward wheel mounting assembly for a foldable cycle comprising a frame assembly, ~~and pivotally connecting to said pivot assembly, a mounting arm including a mounting for a forward wheel; and~~ wherein the frame assembly comprises a rear frame portion including a mounting for a rear wheel; a forward frame portion, hingedly connecting to said rear frame portion such that the two frame portions are foldable towards each other; and hingedly connecting to said forward frame portion, a pivot assembly for a mounting arm, said mounting arm including a mounting for a forward wheel, wherein the rear frame portion and pivot assembly are coupled such that ~~on~~ when folding of the frame portions towards each other, hinged movement of said pivot assembly relative to the forward frame portion moves said mounting arm to increase the spacing between the forward frame portion and the forward wheel mounting. --

Claim 22 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 22. A foldable cycle comprising the frame and forward wheel mounting assembly according to claim 21~~[[;]],~~ further comprising forward and rear wheels ~~and attached respectively to said forward and rear wheel mountings, forward and rear wheels; attached to the mounting arm;~~ handlebars attached to the mounting

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arm; ~~and attached to the rear frame portion~~, a seat stem attached to the rear frame portion for receipt of a seat and a drive mechanism for said rear wheel. --

Claim 23 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 23. A The foldable cycle according to claim 22, wherein the forward and rear wheels are of diameter from 60 cm to 75 cm. --

Claim 24 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 24. A frame assembly for a foldable cycle comprising a rear frame portion including a mounting for a rear wheel; a forward frame portion, hingedly connecting to said rear frame portion such that the two frame portions are foldable towards each other; and hingedly connecting to said forward frame portion, a pivot assembly for a mounting arm, said mounting arm including a mounting for a forward wheel, wherein the rear frame portion and pivot assembly are coupled by a coupling that is provided with a tensioner for providing tension to said hinged connection between the forward and rear frame portions. --

Claim 25 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 25. A The frame assembly according to claim 24, wherein said tensioner comprises a resilient element. --

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Claim 26 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 26. A The frame assembly according to claim 25, wherein said resilient element comprises a spring. --

Claim 27 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 27. A The frame assembly according to claim 25, wherein said resilient element is arranged to provide an over centre action. --

Claim 28 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 28. A The frame assembly according to claim 25, wherein said resilient element locates within a cavity defined by the coupling. --

Claim 29 is *amended to*:

-- Claim 29. A The frame assembly according to claim 28, wherein the coupling is provided with a hard sprung piston mechanism comprising an outer sleeve shaped respectively to receive an inner bayonet sleeve and a central piston together with an internal spring, wherein the sprung piston mechanism enables travel of the inner bayonet sleeve relative to the outer sleeve which travel is constrained by the an action of the spring. --


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A. Scharich whose telephone number is (571) 272-3244. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.S. - 3/13/2007



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